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The port of Nice being free, and a frontier town of France and Piedmont, considerable inducement is held out to smugglers to introduce manufactured goods into those countries, and a premium of 20 to 30 per cent is obtained by the contraband Nice traders according to the bulk and value of the article smuggled across their frontier. The free port has also prevented the establishment of manufactories of any importance; those which exist being confined to soap, tanning, and perfumery. There are several lead mines in the neighbourhood of Nice; that of Tende yielded the largest proportion of silver, being 2½ to every 600; unfortunately this mine is not worked at present, in consequence of some misunderstanding between the proprietor and the government. A duty of 8 francs per charge of 288lbs. (English) is paid on wheat. The price of wheat in 1840, was 1*l.* 10*s.* per charge, which would make the cost of a quarter of 480lbs. English, equal to 50*s.*: the price of the quarter of wheat in 1840, in England, was 66*s.* 4*d.*

The day labourer earns 1*s.* and 1*s.* 4*d.* per day with food, or 1*s.* 6*d.* per day without; women earn half these sums. Wages, however, vary according to the demand for labourers. Deducting Sundays and holidays, which amount to 66, and rainy days, which may be computed at 38, the working days in the year amount to 259. The artisan earns from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.* per day, and has an advantage over the labourer in being able to work during bad weather; he, however, gives himself up to the habit of not working on the day after festivals.

The following table exhibits the amount of taxes, and the description of property upon which they are levied:—

	Francs.	Francs.
Direct Taxes:—		
Direct Taxes	272,711·80	404,632·50
Land Tax	24,113	
Personal Property	66,377·25	
Provincial	41,430·45	
Indirect Taxes:—		
Stamps, Mortgages, Registrations	216,402·79	1,692,598·79
Customs, and Duty on Grain	480,000	
Taxes on Salt, Tobacco, Powder and Lead	996,196	
		2,097,231·29

or £83,888, which is equal to £1. 6*s.* 9¾*d.* per head.

On the Famines that have devastated India, and on the probability of their being Periodical. By the Rev. Robert Everest, Chaplain to the East India Company.

In comparing the devastating effects of drought, which I have more than once witnessed in India, with the accounts of similar calamities in the history of that country, it occurred to me that no one had ever ascertained whether, in that part of the world, such unfavourable seasons had anything like a periodical recurrence. For the purposes of such an inquiry it was impossible to refer to Meteorological Registers for a long series of years, as no such documents existed. The only alternative, therefore, was to examine the prices of corn for as far back as they could be obtained; assuming that they would roughly indicate the character of the seasons. In support of this course, it may be remarked, that the harvests are but triflingly affected by other atmospherical circumstances than moisture and dryness. Of heat and sunshine there is always sufficient to bring the crops to perfection.

In a journal published at Calcutta, called the "Gleanings of Science," there is given, in the volume for the year 1829, a list of the prices of corn at Chinsurah, in Bengal. On looking over this list, which states the quantity in seers obtainable in each year for one rupee (the rupee being about 2*s*. English, and the seer about 2 lbs. avoirdupois), it appears that the principal minima, or periods of scarcity, were as follows:—

	1752		1770		1788		1807		1826
Interval		18		18		19		19	

Average interval, 18½ years.

The average interval being so nearly the same as that of the lunar cycle, naturally led to the idea that the atmospheric changes were in some way or other dependent on it.

But to be certain that these equidistant recurrences were not merely a fortuitous coincidence occasioned by local circumstances, it was necessary to procure other lists of prices from different parts of the country, and to ascertain what general results were to be obtainable from them.

No such lists were published, but, through the kindness of various individuals, I was enabled to obtain them in manuscript from most of the principal cities to the west and north-west of Calcutta, for a distance of 1000 miles.

The following are the principal results obtained from an examination of them :—

Great irregularity was observable in any one list; but the more numerous the lists were from which the averages were taken, the greater was the approximation to a regular ascending and descending series, with recurrences at about 8 or 10 years' distance, leading to the belief, that if we could obtain a correct measure of the average atmospheric changes over a considerable surface of the earth, instead of those only of particular localities, we should be able to observe something like regular intervals in the seasons.

The few books to which I was able to refer on the subject led me to believe that a more complete return would take place at the end of 54 years, but, on comparing the actual results obtained, a term of 56 years appeared to answer better. Consequently, in tracing the variations upon paper, the heights of the different years came upon the same perpendicular line with those 56 years apart. Thus, above the height of the year 1835, the last on the right hand, came the height of the year 1779, and so on backwards. It will be observed, that there is necessarily a marked degree of parallelism in the two lines for about 21 years; after that it becomes less distinct. But the number of lists rapidly diminishes about that time, and as it has not been the custom to register the prices of corn till within the last few years, those that remain are of only doubtful authority.

Assuming that the variations in price follow the variations of the seasons as to dryness and moisture, it was to be expected that analogous variations might be observed in the depths of large inland seas, such as the Caspian, and the lakes of North America.

In Brewster's Journal, vol. vii. (July to October, 1827), there is a paper by Mr. De Witt Clinton, on the periodical rises and falls of the great lakes of America. It is there stated, that there is a rise for 3 years, and then a corresponding decline; that some extend the time to 5, and others to 10 years. This would give returns at a distance of 6, 10, and 20 years respectively. It appears, however, that no register has ever been kept of these variations, and they are given only from the memory of the inhabitants.

The years of maxima given are 1797 1815
The minima. 1802–1811 1822

I subjoin a list of the prices of wheat at Dehli for 73 years, ending with 1835:—

Year.	Seers per Rupee.	Year.	Seers per Rupee.
– 1763	20	1799	60
1764	28,8	1800	45,8
1765	37	1801	44
1766	42	1802	40,8
1767	44	– 1803	15,4
+ 1768	47	1804	20,8
1769	42	1805	30,12
1770	35	1806	32,4
1771	30	+ 1807	35,8
1772	26	1808	27,4
– 1773	10	1809	25
1774	19	1810	40
1775	25	1811	35,4
1776	40	– 1812	22,8
+ 1777	60	1813	23,4
1778	40	1814	33
1779	30	+ 1815	42,8
1780	22	1816	35,8
1781	18	1817	24,4
1782	11	1818	25,4
– 1783	6	1819	24
1784	25	– 1820	21,8
1785	40	1821	26,2
1786	42,8	1822	28,4
+ 1787	45	+ 1823	30
1788	44	1824	25,4
1789	41,8	1825	25,6
1790	38,8	– 1826	20,8
1791	30,4	1827	33,4
– 1792	12,4	1828	45
1793	18,4	1829	46,8
1794	30,8	+ 1830	47,4
1795	70	1831	38
1796	70	1832	45,8
1797	65	1833	30
+ 1798	120	– 1834	25
		1835	40

The average for the whole country gives—

Maxima . 1768 . . 1777 . . 1787 . . 1796 . . 1806
Minima . 1770 . 1775 . . 1782 . . 1792 . . 1802

Maxima . . 1815 . . 1822 . . 1830 1835
Minima 1809 . . 1820 . . 1826 . . 1832